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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 9, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, You are the lasting defense in battle and the guardian of Your people. Members of Congress have stood with the American people throughout the Iraqi conflict and now rejoice in seeing our military troops returning home. Bless and reward all those who proudly wear the uniforms of the Armed Forces of this Nation. Continue to protect those who are still in harm's way anywhere in the world. Strengthen their families in love and answer the prayers of their children. Bring healing to those who have been injured in military combat and grant eternal peace to those who have died. May their families persevere in faith and find compassion and support in their every need.

May the last 50 days now bear true and lasting results of goodness and peace.

Lord, may the celebration of Mother's Day this weekend celebrate the gift of life and renew the profound significance of family relationships, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. REHBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches per side.

RELEASE OF DR. SALAI TUN THAN

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce good news. Dr. Salai

Tun Than, University of Georgia graduate and a political prisoner of the Burmese government since December 2001, was released from his 7-year sentence this past Sunday. While many were instrumental in Dr. Tun Than's release, including the University of Georgia Student Government Association and the UGA chapter of Amnesty International, I would like to express my gratitude to Burmese Ambassador Linn Myaing for his assistance and willingness to meet with me to discuss Dr. Tun Than.

While I am grateful for Dr. Tun Than's release, I am concerned that his release was contingent upon conditions restricting his future political engagement, effectively denying him his freedom of speech. I hope that in the future, the Burmese Government will strive for more openness, freedom, and democracy in its political process.

Burma holds more than 1,000 prisoners like Dr. Tun Than in its prisons, many of whom have been there longer than Dr. Tun Than. This situation must change. I urge the Burmese Government not to stop with the release of Dr. Tun Than, but to release other political prisoners. Only then can democracy and individual liberty flourish in Burma.

REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC PLAN FAILS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives has a historic decision to make. We can get the economy moving again with a fair, fast-acting, and fiscally sound Democratic plan; or we can pass a reckless plan that the Republicans are proposing that does not create jobs.

The debate today is about leadership. Sadly, that leadership is lacking from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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